

# Meeting Minutes

## Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

April 3, 2014 ● DPW Conference Room ● 4:30 PM

3/6/14 minutes approved unanimously.

### Group reports:

- Compost – The CET (Center for Eco-Technology) is too busy to work on an Amherst Cinema Building pilot, but can provide support via phone. They directed us to an updated “toolkit” they have produced. John will forward to all Committee members. Prior to 2006 there was some composting done by restaurants downtown. Judie’s, in particular, is eager to begin again. Want to have info available at the Sustainability Festival about composting – maybe about local composting removal, home composting, transfer station pick up, etc. Disseminating info about upcoming composting workshop at Hadley Garden Supply. John will ask Deb Puppel, Asst to Town Manager and Select Board, what information the Committee can share. At the Festival, we will have an Earth Machine composter, a rotating composter and a “Green Cone” backyard anaerobic digester sample, and will sell countertop compost buckets. Have discussed how to educate people and disseminate information. Letter to Superintendent of Schools, Marie Geryk still needs to be sent.
- Transfer Station/SWEF – No new info. Arnie had the opportunity to talk with Guilford Mooring about the Transfer Station. Very complex situation. It’s a business, but also provides a service. We need to ask Guilford how the working group can be helpful with the success of the transfer station. Arnie will ask Guilford about having a meeting with the working group. What other similar towns could we learn from? Amherst has unique variables including two closed landfills and no infusion of funds from the town into the SWE Fund. Costs of the town-wide hazardous waste collection and the recycling coordinator’s salary are also borne solely by the SWE Fund.
- Downtown recycling – Had a meeting with stakeholders in June. We will begin a downtown recycling in June with 7 bins (previously purchased with a grant). Allen Snow has been put in touch with ARHS Engineering Club to work on design for split bed truck. Have also given him info on pre-existing split-bed

truck designs. Outlying parks in town would be next phase, and high school playing fields. State law (CMR 19.017) and town bylaws (Brenda will find this) state that EVERYONE must be recycling. Susan Waite will be attending a meeting to find out more about possible grants. Perhaps some trash cans could be removed or traded for recycling bins – this should be reviewed with Allen Snow. Plastic cups can not be recycled – there will need to be education and signage regarding this. How can we get food establishments such as Amherst Coffee to remove waste from their own customers rather than this trash going into municipal trash cans? Black Sheep has their own outside trash can in the warm weather. Are their town regulations about this? Board of Health regulations do not seem to address this. Arnie will look these over and the Committee will consider possible revisions/additions to suggest.

Covanta Revisited – The transfer station brings MSW and bulky waste to Valley Recycling. We are charged the same tipping fee for both, and have no way to determine how much of that material is only MSW, but know it to be only a small fraction of the total. Covanta is interested in only MSW for purposes of this contract. Some communities will negotiate special contracts with Covanta for non-MSW waste, and it will cost more because large bulky waste will have to be broken up. Therefore Amherst will not enter into a consortium contract at this time.

Plan Sustainability Festival activities – April 26, 2014. Textile Collection will include Styrofoam chunks and wood pellet bags. Salvation Army will pick up textiles. Roll-off from transfer station to collect Styrofoam (no food-related, no “peanuts”). Susan W. will send a sign-up sheet. Susan M. will contact some university and high school groups who might be able to provide volunteers. Susan W. and Susan M. will make a flyer/press release and will review what material we have for dissemination. Brenda will bring some extra page protectors. Craig will work with Sue M. to create a way to hang the textile banner.

Waste reduction and PAYT developments – deferred until May.

New Business & topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to meeting – nothing new.